Property - 1926

See Also: Business
Cities
Secret Societies
Segregation

Property - 1926

Alabama.

Remembers Colored Associate in Will

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 5.—(By The Associated Negro Press)—Amos Allen, a station hand at the Louisville And Nashville depot here will receive $500 and a quantity of furniture, according to the will of C. E. Meglemary, which was probated here recently. Mr. Meglemary was for some 38 years stationmaster at the Louisville and Nashville depot and during this entire period Mr. Allen was associated with him.

Rich Alabaman Keeps Job As R. R. Camp Cook

Gadsen, Ala., Feb. 28.—With more than $350,000 on deposit in the banks of this district to his credit, and a weekly income of $3,000 from rich oil and coal minues in operation on his land, George Coleman, one of the richest men in theh South, refuses to give up his job as cook in a railroad constrution camp. Coleman is a half-breed, half-Indian and half-Negro, who inherited a large tract of land in the western part of Oklahoma as his patrimony from the government.

Oil was discovered on hi sland two years ago and the royalties began piling up from the oil company which leased the land. Shortly after coal was found and an eastern coal concern leased the coal rights for $200,000, which was deposited by Coleman in a Gadsen bank. Since that time royalties from both lessors have been piling up in the bank, untouched by Coleman who lives very simply, and are estimated by the bank where he does business to amount to $358,627.

Coleman, who is 58 years of age did not come into the wealth until after he was 55 years of age. He has worked as cook in construction camps for over thirty years and has no family and few friends outside of his immediate circle. When he came into possession of the vast fortune he gave up his job and travelled about for several months, but became lonesome for his old companions, and returned to his old job. He has steadfastly refused to take an interest in business, or to turn his holdings over into the hands of a guardian or business agent. He says that the fortune will serve to take care of him and his old friends after they shall all be unable to work any longer.

Property - 1926

California

Race Woman Made Wealthy Selling California Fruit

California's Famous Road-Side Markets Were First Originated By Colored Maid.

(By Geo. Perry)

GLENDALE, Calif., Aug 12.—(Pacific Coast News Bureau)—The hundreds of wonderful road side fruit markets that line the beautiful California paved highways dispensing choice fruit to thousands of Eastern tourists daily, were originated in 1911 by a colored maid employed at the Meeker ranch, a familiar California land mark near Glendale that is now being torn down to make room for real estate expansion.

Becomes Wealthy

This maid, Beatrice Jolly, a native of Kentucky, is now rated as wealthy, although in spite of her wealth and realty holdings she still remains in the service of the Meeker family with whom she has lived for 17 years.

Established First Market

One day in 1911, receiving permission from her mistress to sell the oranges left on the trees by the pickers, Miss Jolly filled several soap boxes with oranges and did a thriving afternoon business on the lawn selling to whoever happened to pass by. With a cheerful disposition and a wonderful personality that attracted, Miss Jolly with the aid of the son of the family and several small boys of the neighborhood, built up a remarkable business. Encouraged at the success of his maid's efforts, Mr. Meeker was persuaded to finance the work on a larger scale with the result that additional orchards were bought up to assure an adequate supply for the increasing trade of this pioneer roadside market.

$1.00 per Day Profit

Business expanded under the supervision of this remarkable maid who during this period managed to keep her housework done as well as her outside work, until she often would clear as much as a hundred dollars a day. Finally different financial arrangements were made that enabled her to capitalize on her venture. The ranch was later subdivided, netting Miss Jolly an additional return from commission on the sale of lots. Her earnings have been wisely invested and today she is rated as one of the wealthiest colored women in Southern California

WEALTH FROM CALIF. ROADSIDE FRUIT MARKET

Colored Woman Who Originated Famous System Has Climbed To The Heights Of Success

By George Perry

(Pacific Coast News Bureau)

GLENDALE, Calif., Aug. 11—The hundreds of wonderful road side fruit markets that line the beautiful California paved highways dispensing choice fruit to thousands of Eastern tourists daily, were originated in 1911 by a colored maid employed at the Meeker ranch a familiar California land mark near Glendale that is now being torn down to make room for real estate expansion.

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D.C.

Property-1926

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF NEGRO HOME OWNERS

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb. 24.—The number of Negro home owners in the United States is on a steady increase according to a report of C. Clinton James, President of the United States Building Loan Association League of local Building and Loan Associations.

The estimates compiled by James revealed that there are 12,000 building associations, which loaned $1,600,000,000 for the purchasing and construction of 450,000 homes, last year.

Property - 1926

Florida.

NEGRO MILLIONAIRE LOSES $75,000 IN FLORIDA STORM

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 12.—D. A. Dorsey, Negro millionaire of Miami, who returned to his home Tuesday night, after coming here to secure labor to rebuild the schools in that city, stated that the storm had done more than $75,000 worth of damage to his property and holdings in Miami. The roof of the hotel which he owns was torn off and windows blown out. Four of his apartments were unroofed, and twenty houses blown off their foundations, and eight or ten of them were completely demolished. The damage, he said, would roughly amount to $75,000.

As soon as he has secured sufficient labor to rebuild the schools which had been damaged he would begin to rebuild his own property. Mr. Dorsey took the initiative in coming to Jacksonville to secure carpenters to go back to Miami and help in the rehabilitation of the schools so that the educational work of the city would go on while the citizens carried on the other work of reconstruction. He was assisted in his efforts to secure labor by the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League. J. H. McGrew of Atlanta, Ga., who is here making a survey of this field for Y. M. C. A. purposes, was also a party to the securing of the labor. The leaders met with the city officials and received their consent.

Reporter 10-16-26 Birmingham Ala.

Property - 1926

General.

NEGRO WEALTH INCREASES

(Columbian Press Bureau)

WASHINGTON

The present estimated wealth of Negroes in the United States is $2,000,000,000, according to a recent survey made for the Research Section of the American Sociological Society by Dr. Monroe N. Work, of Tuskegee Institute. The wealth of the group in 1912, was estimated at $700,000,000. The race has also made decided gains in the matter of health. The death rate, which was 22.9 per thousand in 1912, has now fallen to 15.7 or a decrease of 31 per cent.

Southern Christian Recorder 4-29-26 Nashville, Tenn.

HIGHLAND PK ILL PRESS (w.
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1926.

ESTIMATED WEALTH OF NEGROES IN U. S.

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BARABOO WIS NEWS
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1926.

Negroes Boom In Health and Wealth

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Property - 1926

Georgia.

LOS ANGELES, CAL. HERALD

MAY 7 1926

EX-SLAVE DYING AT 82, LEAVES $100,000 ESTATE

SPARTA, Ga., May 7.—Born in slavery, Zack Hubert, 82-year-old negro, amassed a fortune estimated to exceed $100,000, since the Civil war, it was revealed when he died here. Uneducated himself, he had educated every one of his large number of children, practically all of them graduating from Tuskegee institute, Ala. All the sons and daughters are now holding responsible posts in colored colleges over the country.

Property - 1926

Kansas.

Starting As Janitor In 1889, Race Depot Master On Santa Fe Has Solved Mystery Of Economic Freedom

"Live Savingly," Motto of Wayman Anderson, Whose Strict Adherence to This Rule Has Made Him Wealthy.

Courier 9-25-26 Pittsburg

NEWTON, Kansas, Sept. 23—Wayman Anderson, Race Depot Master on the Santa Fe system, has given an everyday recipe for acquiring wealth. "Live savingly," he says. Mr. Anderson is among Newton's most prosperous citizens and is the best depot master on the Santa Fe system. He is known all up and down the Santa Fe system for his prosperity, courtesy and aggressiveness.

"Long time ago, my wife and I made an agreement to save," he said, "so we wouldn't have to worry when we got old, and we did it. When they came around during the war, tellin' us how to live savin' my wife says, 'why I been livin' that way for a long time.'"

But saving didn't get it all for him. The depot master used his head some. He knew bargains in property when he saw them, and took advantage of them. He has made several property transfers that have netted him good sums.

The depot master, however, is not known for his prosperity so much as he is for his courtesy in the Santa Fe service. And the traveling public appreciates this courtesy. Editorials have been written about him, putting him up against any other depot master, "domestic or foreign, ancient or modern." Prominent individuals traveling on the Santa Fe know him well, and don't hesitate to ask him for information or service, knowing they will get the best.

Newton is the most important terminal in the west, and each day the trusty employee transfers dozens of women and babies from one train to another and never does he make a mistake. It is estimated that he answers 700 questions a day, and always answers them right. And never does he seem to get tired.

Starting as janitor at the station in 1889, Wayman has worked for the Santa Fe ever since, and outside of vacations, never absenting himself a day from work unless absolutely necessary. Twenty years ago he was promoted to his present job.

Property-1926

Maryland

CREDITT HEIRS SUE TO HAVE TRUSTEE NAMED

Death of Dr. William A. Creditt Left Property Without Administrator

TO SELL HOME LEFT IN TRUST BY MOTHER

House On Carey Street To Be Sold and Funds Divided Among Claimants

Testimony was taken before an examiner in the suit instituted by the heirs of Mrs. Mary L. Creditt to have a trustee appointed to administer the property known as 1371 N. Carey street in order that it may be held and the proceeds divided properly, Friday.

Clipped from American 7-17-26

The suit, which was drawn up by Attorney Linwood Koger, is merely a friendly action, he declared, with all parties in perfect accord. The process was the only one that could be taken to properly adjust the matter after the affairs of the late Mrs. Creditt had become complicated.

Baltimore, Md.

The property was at first left in trust to the heirs with her son, Dr. William A. Creditt, former principal of Downingtown Institute, as trustee. She also provided that Mrs. Minnie Creditt should occupy the premises until her death.

Following the death of Dr. Creditt the property was left without a trustee and none of the heirs could claim any portion until the appointment was made by legal process of law.

Those entitled to a share are Mrs. Anna C. Reed, Daniel C. Creditt, John A. Creditt, William Creditt, S. Annice Woodford, Mary E. Wilson, G. Russell Waller, Jr., Annie Locks, James Creditt, and Addie E. Brunell.

Property – 1926.

Massachusetts.

BROOKLYN N Y EAGLE
MAY 16, 1926

Becomes Millionaire on 15 Cents

Negro Porter Quit Scrubbing Stairs to Enter Real Estate Business and Has Accumulated Fortune

By Howard Butler

WATT TERRY, son of parents born in slavery and himself brought up in meager circumstances in a little log cabin "away up in the woods" in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, is today pointed out in Harlem, Manhattan, as the largest negro holder of real estate in that greatest negro settlement in the entire United States.

Twenty years ago he arrived in Brockton, Massachusetts, with fifteen cents in his pocket and an ambition to "be somebody." The fifteen cents has grown to one million dollars and the ambition has been realized. The Goddess of Fortune has handed him to date a palatial home in Brockton, a summer cottage in Oak Bluffs, a sumptuous dwelling in New York City, a prosperous business and three or four automobiles, a yacht in the course of construction and an optimistic view of the future—all this at the early age of forty (the exact date of his birth is unknown, as his parents forgot to record it).

In Brockton, Massachusetts, where he got his start, he owns some of the choicest property in the city and directly controls the Hamilton Hotel and the Checkerton, the latter a five-story brick apartment house, rented by physicians, lawyers and other professional people, all of whom are white. Nearby are several other large holdings, which include houses, stores, garages and office buildings, all practically occupied by white people. Mr. Terry employs white help both in his offices and buildings in Brockton.

"I remember when I used to scrub the stairs in the Y. M. C. A. building for forty dollars per month," said Mr. Terry smilingly, "and sometimes I felt as though I had scrubbed ten thousand steps instead of a few hundred—but invariably I would manage to finish the job a bit earlier than I was supposed to and go downstairs into the basement and read a good book—if I was lucky enough to have one.

"One day I quit the scrubbing job and looked around for an opening as a pullman porter. I had always thought it would be a fine thing for me if I could wear a red cap and travel all over the United States; but my friends persuaded me not to join the army of itinerant servitors, so I got a job in a shoe factory instead. I became an edge setter and saved enough money to purchase a small cottage in Brockton. I was married by that time and my wife wanted to settle down in Massachusetts."

By this time Watt Terry was conceded to be a personage among his own people. He was superintendent of Messiah Baptist Church Sunday School and active in church work. He was well known as a lecturer and was an ardent advocate of prohibition; between times he busied himself with the racial problems of his people.

He had a reputation for being well acquainted among the negroes, which helped him gain an insight into the real estate business, for one day a man in Brockton who had a house for sale asked Terry whether he knew of any desirable negro family that might be interested in it.

Terry found a family to take the house.

It wasn't long before other people asked his help in renting property, and he found himself acting as an unpaid real estate broker. That suggested the idea of going in the real estate business. He approached a white man who he knew had houses for sale and offered his services to negotiate sales among the members of his own race. The offer was accepted.

Terry set out the next morning and canvassed his friends whom he knew would be interested in the possibilities of the real estate he had for sale. He succeeded in selling a house the very first day, for which he received a commission of one hundred dollars—his first professional transaction.

Elated with his good fortune, Terry asked the foreman of the shoe factory to grant him a month's leave of absence. The foreman agreed and also promised to engage him again if he returned. But Terry never returned.

By mortgaging his little home and using his savings Terry raised enough money to start buying and selling real estate. His first great opportunity came through the friendship of a prominent Brockton banker, who was also a member of the Y. M. C. A. board. It was he who advised Terry to take over an eight-family house on Newberry Street. Terry did, and not only made it a better paying proposition but rented the house exclusively to whites.

Terry did most of the janitor work around the apartment and collected rents on the side as a matter of economy. Things did not always run smoothly, however, and a short time after he had acquired the apartment house an opposing syndicate forced him into a tight corner, thinking he would be compelled to sell out his interests at their own figure. The opposition, however, reckoned without Mr. Terry's friends, who came to the resuce and saw him safely out of his predicament. Meanwhile Terry continued to study and take night courses in Boston, studying real estate and reading good books recommended by his friends.

Speaking of his good fortune in the real estate business, Mr. Terry said: "I'll admit I was lucky, but if it had not been for my friends I would have been a Pullman porter or still scrubbing steps in some office building. I never could have reached my present station in life without the helping hands of my friends, who never failed me when I needed them most."

Soon after the United States entered the war a promotion company with a block of high-class apartment houses in central Harlem attempted to rent their holdings in a city already overbuilt. Rents were high and tenants were scarce. The outlook was anything but bright.

A janitor in one of the buildings told one of the promoters that he knew a man in Brockton who had made a success of everything in real estate he touched. The promoter said he'd be glad to see the Brockton man.

Terry was invited to come to New York and look over the property. He accepted the invitation and started for New York. He studied the situation and reported that he would undertake to fill the apartments if the owners were willing to rent them to negroes. The owners were willing and were more than glad of an opportunity to put their holdings on a paying basis, especially during such a critical period of depression due to the war.

The apartments were a paying proposition shortly after, and the man who did the work received a large commission. Mr. Terry immediately cashed in on his New York experience and entered the Harlem real estate market when values were low and the negroes were settling in Harlem, which has a population of about two hundred thousand today.

Keenly appreciative of the future growth of Harlem and keeping constantly in touch with the needs of his people, he gradually expanded his activities and increased his holdings until today he is considered one of the foremost authorities on housing problems in Harlem.

Regarding his personal activities Mr. Terry is extremely reticent. He is said to be a trustee of Tuskegee Institute, a benefactor of that school and many others, has sent a sister through Tuskegee Institute. She has and a large donor to the two negro churches in Brockton, been teaching school and doing work of a religious nature He knew Booker T. Washington and made a tour, ar- among the negroes of the South. Mr. Terry has helped ranged by Mr. Washington, to lecture and give inspira- several other members of his own race to acquire an tional talks to members of his own race. The Terrys education, that they might be of his own race. have no children, but they have adopted a little girl, about battle of life.

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Seated at his roll-top mahogany desk, Mr. Terry continued talking in his soft Virginia accent: "I have always read books dealing with the life of Abraham Lincoln and I remember one statement he made about 'being ready.' It goes something like this: 'I will study and be ready that I may grasp my opportunity should it come.'" Whereon Mr. Terry pointed to a large portrait of Lincoln, remarking, "A great man. All young men should revere his memory and follow in his footsteps." On the opposite side of the room is another portrait. It is one of Roosevelt, and directly over Mr. Terry's desk is a steel engraving of Booker T. Washington. All three are his heroes.

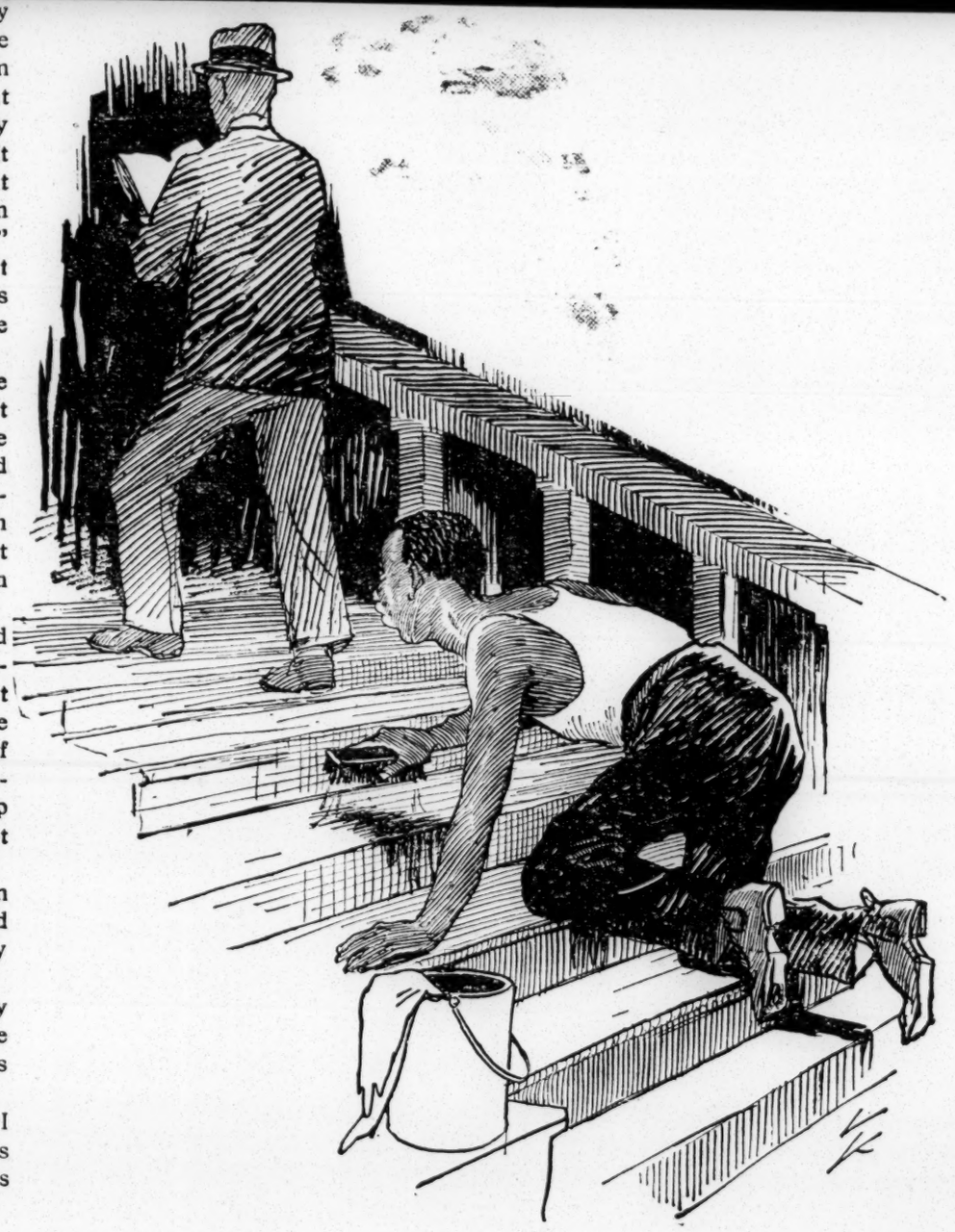
One is struck by the apparent spiritual poise of the man. One hears sounds from the outside world but faintly in Mr. Terry's private office. A cathedral-like silence pervades the atmosphere, yet business is carried on with a clock-like precision and one can sense the intense concentration prevalent. It is as a hush which sometimes falls upon the busiest of thoroughfares just before the intense activity which suddenly takes place in the jungle of life.

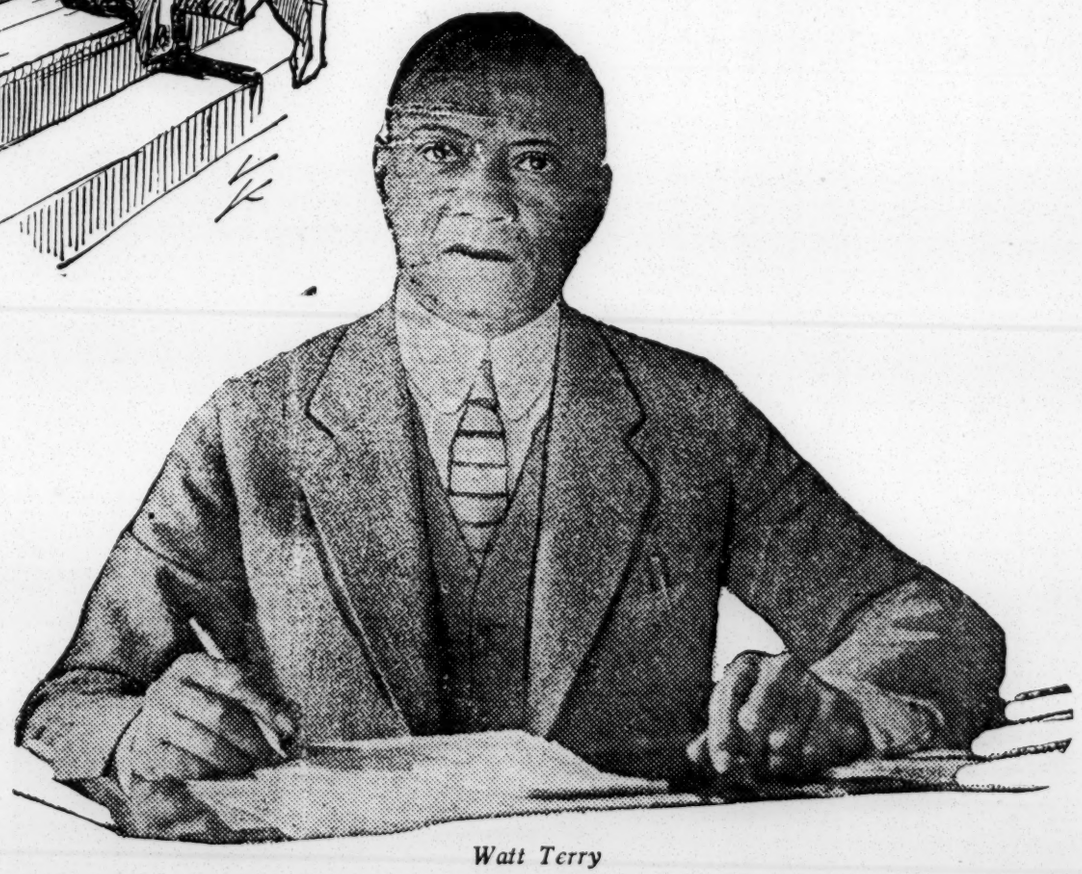
Mr. Watt Terry, millionaire, benefactor, mentor and real estate magnate, is supremely oblivious of these strident noises from a thousand sources of commerce. But Mr. Terry is able to distinguish sounds from the jungle out of which arise the cry of the needy and the groan of the sick, the wail of the wounded and ever-present outstretched palm for "Help, help, help," and he does help —succors the worthy members of his race and does not ask for thanks.

More than five hundred people are dependent upon Mr. Terry for their daily bread, and some five thousand tenants occupy premises which he owns or directly controls.

He visits the scene of his childhood frequently and reflects upon his good fortune and contrasts the change wrought in his life through the helpfulness of his "friendly friends" up North.

And, in Mr. Terry's own words: "I am thankful not so much for the heights to which I have risen, but to the depths from which I sprang."





Watt Terry

Property-1926 I.

Massachusetts.

ATLANTA GA Constitution

MAR 28 1926

Ex-Slave's Son Now Worth More Than $1,000,000

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When he arrived in Brockton about 20 years ago, Terry had 15 cents in his pockets. Today his financial rating is in excess of $1,000,000 and he has a fine home in Brockton, a private house in New York city, and a summer cottage at Oak Bluffs, Mass.

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MAR 28 1926

NEGRO RATED OVER A MILLION DOLLARS

Watt Terry Born in Log Cabin in Virginia

FATHER ONCE A SLAVE

Largest Negro Real Estate Operator in Country

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Terry's father was emancipated when his son was about 3 years old. The father retained the name of his former master. The younger Terry and his brothers, worked barefooted on their father's small Virginia farm, which consisted of a "patch of corn and a patch of cotton." When their parents died, the children went to live with relatives. A distant relative in Brockton suggested that Watt come to live with him. An uncle in Norfolk, Va., loaned him money for the trip.

He made his first money in the North by digging holes for fence posts. Later he worked successively as wood chopper, hostler and coachman and finally became janitor for the Young Men's Christian Association in Brockton. Meanwhile, he attended classes. Later he sough to fulfill a long ambition to be a Pullman porter. He obtained a job, but soon gave it up for the reason, as he explained, that he didn't want to take tips.

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NEGRO RANKS HIGH AS REALTY DEALER

Son of Former Slave Owns Large Holdings in Harlem Section of New York

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NEW YORK CITY WORLD
APRIL 11, 1926

Former Janitor Makes Millions in Realty

Watt Terry, on 15 Cents Capital, Builds Fortune in 20 Years

By Lester A. Walton

Meet Watt Terry, ~~Negro millionaire~~ real estate operator of Harlem and Brockton, Mass.

Twenty years ago Watt Terry was an assistant janitor at the Y. M. C. A. of Brockton. He still is pursuing dust—gold dust. To-day he is reputed to be the largest individual property holder of his race in the country as well as in Harlem. He is one of Brockton's biggest taxpayers, regardless of race, creed or color.

The equities in the Terry properties are valued at $1,500,000. The mortgages, to quote the owner, "are practically kept down to a whisper."

Accounts of Watt Terry's romantic rise to a commanding figure in the domain of real estate are neither conjectural nor fictional. There are no ifs, ands or maybes about his wealth. It is not based on imagination nor gossip.

In September, 1923, one of New York's leading firms of certified public accountants issued an authorized statement certifying that after an investigation, personally made it showed that Watt Terry's property holdings in New York and Brockton were worth at least $1,000,000. That was two years and a half ago. Since that time Mr. Terry has bought additional realty.

Terry Only Member

The Terry Holding Company, which does not sell stock and has but one member—Watt Terry—has hundreds of tenants in Harlem. In a block of apartment houses from Nos. 202 to 230 W. 140th Street, there are 1,576 rooms. Another row of apartment houses is on 141st Street. The company has properties in 129th, 131st, 139th, 142d Streets, and in Seventh Avenue.

The Brockton office is in the Checkerton, a five-story brick elevator apartment house. The tenants are physicians, lawyers and other professional men of standing in the community. Nearby are the Chesston, a frame apartment house, and the Hotel Hamilton, a brick structure. These three valuable pieces of real estate belong to the erstwhile janitor.

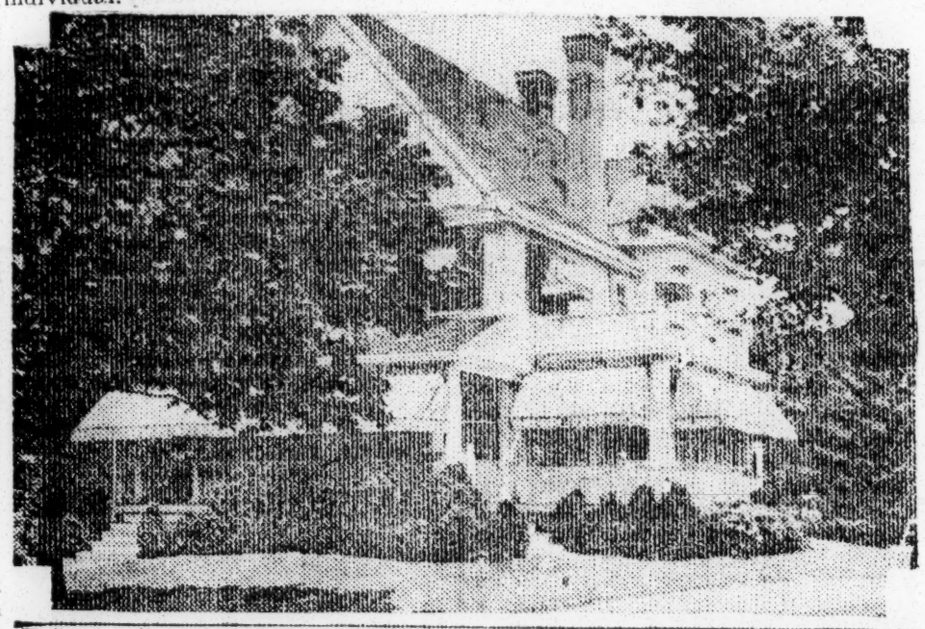
In the Harlem office at No. 2380 Seventh Avenue, the entire staff is colored. In the Brockton office all the employees, including janitors and scrub women, are white. The Terry tenants in Harlem are colored and in Brockton white; hence such an arrangement as to help is carried out, it is explained.

Watt Terry was born in a Virginia log cabin. Suffice to say, there was

APR 23 1928

Good Sense and Good Will

YEARS ago, a fifteen-year-old negro lad went up from Virginia to look for work in the North. In Brockton, Massachusetts, he found a job as a hostler. His attention to duties and his good demeanor soon gained him friends who helped him to get the rudiments of an education. He saved his wages and multiplied them bl every available and honest means. At length they amounted to enough to make the first payment on



TOWN HOME at BROCKTON, Mass

WATT TERRY

SUMMER COTTAGE at OAK BLUFFS, Mass

a tight place and an effort was made to force him to sell his high class Brockton buildings, but influential white friends came to his rescue and made it possible to weather the financial storm. While carrying on an extensive real estate business in Brockton he took night business courses in Boston and sought to improve his education in other ways.

It has long been the custom of the National Negro Business League, founded by Booker T. Washington, to have on the program at the annual meetings Negroes who have been successful in business, the assumption being that narrations of individual achievement tend to inspire others. A few years before his death Booker T. Washington invited Watt Terry to speak at a session of the league in Chicago. It was the first time Negroes outside of Brockton and environs knew a member of their race was a successful realty dealer in a thriving New England town.

Reaches Harlem in 1917

Mr. Terry did not get into the Harlem picture until 1917, when he became interested in the Payton Apartments in 141st and 142d Streets, between Lenox and Seventh Avenues. He soon disassociated himself from the management of these properties and began to acquire Harlem real estate through the Terry Holding Company with singular success.

His Seventh Avenue office may be aptly referred to as palatial both with regard to furniture and decorations which show good taste. Large pictures of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington adorn the walls, done in sepia. Mr. Terry dresses in keeping with his environment.

The Terry home in New York is at No. 290 Convent Avenue. The town house at Brockton is in the exclusive residential district on Belmont Avenue adjoining the home of the late Gov. William L. Douglas, the shoe manufacturer. During the warm weather the family passes much time at the water front summer cottage at Oak Bluffs. A boat is being built for summer sailing in Vineyard Sound. There are, of course, no motor cars.

The Terrys have no children of their own. In their household is a seven-year-old girl who was adopted when a baby.

Active in Church Work

Watt Terry is a devout Christian. For seventeen years he has been Superintendent of the Messiah Baptist Church, Brockton, and is an active church worker, both in New York and Brockton. He says one of his chief aims in life is to have people

[illegible] period. [illegible] pastor, who [illegible] just enter[illegible] his duties, is the Rev. Dr. [illegible] E. Hill, who formerly held pa[illegible]s at Hot Springs and Farmville, Va., and Fayetteville, N. C.

of all races and creeds think well of him.

He is a contributor to many worthy causes, giving liberal sums to Negro education, religious institutions and those engaged in uplift work. He is a generous donor to the Brockton Y. M. C. A., where he continues to hold membership. During the recent Hampton-Tuskegee drive he was Chairman of the Harlem Colored Committee. He gives financial aid to the Charity Organization Society and similar organizations conducted in the interest of all racial groups.

Watt Terry says he owes much to the Y. M. C. A.. He does not think he has been handicapped in life because of his racial identity nor unduly favored because of it. He believes one's character and personality have much to do with the success of the individual.

Capital of 15 Cents

When the uneducated Southern Negro walked into Brockton he had 15 cents—a far cry from $1,500,000. His first money was earned digging postholes. A wood chopper, hostler and coachman were the next jobs he filled in chronological order. He was graduated from the stable to the Young Men's Christian Association as an assistant janitor.

Members of the "Y" staff were attracted by the painstaking manner in which Terry scrubbed the floors and polished the brass. They observed that he was intelligent and courteous and persuaded him to join classes in arithmetic, literature and penmanship.

Watt Terry's salary was $40 a month. He had also made a favorable impression with the head janitor, who started a bank account for him under the guise of borrowing $10 at a time, which was deposited in the young man's name.

At one time Terry had visions of being a Pullman porter, but after a few months of railroad life returned to Brockton and obtained employment in a shoe factory. Before long he became an edge setter at Rice & Hutchins and was earning more money than any time during his life. His next eventful step was winning the hand of Miss Mabelle Ashport, an organist of the Congregational church. Shortly after marriage they bought a six-room cottage.

First Realty Venture

Watt Terry's first real estate venture was finding a Negro family for a house just built in his neighborhood. Other requests began to come in asking that he help sell or rent properties. It dawned on him there was big money in the real estate business, so he quit the factory for the realty market.

His first deal of any consequence was the taking over of an eight-family house in Newberry Street. A Brockton banker and a member of the "Y" board assisted him in financing the proposition, which turned out a moneymaker. Then he began to swing larger deals with equal success. Within a few years he owned some of the choicest property in the town.

Once Watt Terry found himself in a roominghouse and later to negotiate other real estate deals. Relying on the advice of white friends in the business world, he was in the main successful. Only once was he threatened with ruin through over-venturing. After this his advance was rapid, and today he is the largest negro real estate owner in America with a fortune conservatively reckoned at one million, five hundred thousand dollars.

The property of this man consists chiefly of office buildings in Brooklyn, and in Harlem, New York. Many hundred rooms bring him in a large and steady income. The Brockton business and buildings are controlled for him and operated by a staff entirely white, so ordered because all of his tenants there are white. In Harlem, on the contrary, all of his rooms and offices are occupied by negroes and the staff in control is entirely black. This arrangement is his own. Nobody, as far as is known, protests against this drawing of the color line by a colored man. Every business man sees and appreciates the wisdom of it.

In the city of Birmingham recently, during an International Sunday School convention, the plan to segregate colored delegates at certain meetings to be held in the city auditorium, drew forth a protest from the headquarters of the national council of congressional [illegible]. The executive committee, functioning [illegible] New York, denounced the Birmingham arrangement as a violation of "the spirit of Christian brotherhood." The spirit of Christian brotherhood, in the New York organization, takes no note of the problems of a southern city dealing with a mixed crowd as host, and at considerable expense. The foreign organization insists on its own point of view which as every one knows has nothing whatever to do with Christian brotherhood, but is an outcropping of that sectionalism which has to be combatted periodically. The action of its committee is as absurd as would be a Kiwanis resolution that Harlem's millionaire colored landlord should give white clerks, janitors and managers a showing in his business there.

Fortunately the Southern negro pays little or no attention to the fulminations of far-off cranks who assume to guard their destinies. A notable meeting of the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation was held not long ago in Tuskegee,

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in which without a jarring note abundant testimonials were given to the kindliness of the south in dealing with race problems. These were from leading negroes, among them Bishop R. E. Jones, who declared th[illegible] "the fr[illegible] cere [illegible] the southern peop[illegible] are meeting the racial problems is the finest feature of the movement." They are being peacably adjusted and for the good of all. The south thoroughly understands that ignorant, unemployed and ill-fed people are a threat and a handicap for any section, no matter what may be their color. Earnest efforts to school and establish the negro are being made, and it is but fair to state that he is doing his own part manfully.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal 4-23-26

Massachusetts.

Property - 1926

Nebraska.

WAGE BATTLE FOR A $100,000 ESTATE

Colored Persons Declare They Are Legal Heirs Of Negro's Estate In Charge Of White Executors

OMAHA, Neb., May 26—A $100,000 estate left by Henry Manley, colored, who died April 17, 1924, is the center of much controversy here.

Two white men, Chas. Bennison and Isaac McCaskey, who had handled the affairs of Manley for twenty years promised to find his legal heirs, and finally succeeded in being appointed trustees and executors of his estate by the Butler County court. These men had a decree issued probating Manley's said will naming Joseph and Elias Mattingly, alleged sons of a half brother of Manley, whites, as heirs to the estate. A number of colored persons appeared and declared themselves heirs to the estate, however, and denied that the whites named ever existed, and stated that the deceased was born in Henry County, August 1849, to Alfred and Rena Manley, both colored. White Manleys, never-the-less, appeared and claimed themselves the heirs named. The case was carried to the district court by the colored contestants, but the whites were upheld. At the present time the former are taking the case to the supreme court, and they have filed suits to have the decree making the whites executors and trustees of the estate set aside and their rights annulled. Att'y. Chester C. McGuire, colored of Gary is in charge of the case.

St. Louis Argus 5-28-26

St. Louis, Mo.

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New York.

N Y C WORLD
MAY 2, 1926

NEGRESS WHO BUILT UP $250,000 ESTATE DIES

Alice Branner, by Real Estate Deals, Increased Small Legacy From Employer

Reputed to have made at least $250,000 in real estate transactions begun in "shoestring" style with a small legacy from her former employer, Miss Alice G. Branner, thirty-seven, a Negro, died yesterday at No. 2313 Seventh Avenue, in one of the combination apartment and office buildings she owned.

Relatives said the exact value of her estate would not be known until tomorrow, when her will is opened by officials of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, named executor.

Mrs. George Rush of Cincinnati, a sister, said Miss Branner, who divorced Walter Reed last year, had received a small sum from the estate of Mrs. Ida Smith Marvin of Detroit, for whom she was maid and secretary several years. Miss Branner also owned the building at No. 2295 Seventh Avenue.

N Y C WORLD
JUNE 7, 1926

THREAT OF NEGRO CLUB ON AVENUE

West End Property Owners Are Alarmed by Sign on the Building at No. 770

CAN'T SELL, SAYS RILEY

Blames Restriction Placed on Adjoining Lots

Sandwiched between towering apartment houses at No. 770 West End Avenue is a three-story and basement semi-brownstone front private dwelling eighteen feet wide. It is the chief topic of discussion in the neighborhood and the cynosure of all eyes, because of a sign conspicuously displayed which read:

"After alterations this building will be used as a club for Negro youths for the culture of Negro melodies, dances and philanthropic and religious purposes."

The owner and occupant is Solomon Riley, a Negro real estate operator, who has lived there with his family since 1923. Determination to turn his home into a Negro club, much to the chagrin of neighbors, Riley attributes to a restrictive covenant on the adjoining property which, he says, has made it difficult to dispose of his realty at a profit, as a cloud is now on the title.

Refusal to Sell Blamed

He charges that his refusal to sell to T. J. McLaughlin, a contractor, for $32,500 is responsible for the unusual predicament in which he finds himself. Riley's version is as follows:

"Last summer I was approached by emissaries of Mr. McLaughlin, who offered to buy No. 770 for $32,500. I offered to sell it for what I paid for it —$35,000. The McLaughlins owned two private dwellings at Nos. 766 and 768, but my lot is 18x100, while each of theirs was 18x89. They also owned the apartment building on the other side of me at No. 772.

"Some months ago I sold my property for $41,000 to a real estate speculator on contract. A few weeks later I was surprised when informed by the purchaser that the deal could not be consummated as Mr. McLaughlin had put a restrictive covenant on his property when he disposed of it which provided that no one would be permitted to erect a new building at Nos. 766 and 768 West End Avenue to extend within fourteen feet of the southern line of the property at No. 772 West End Avenue.

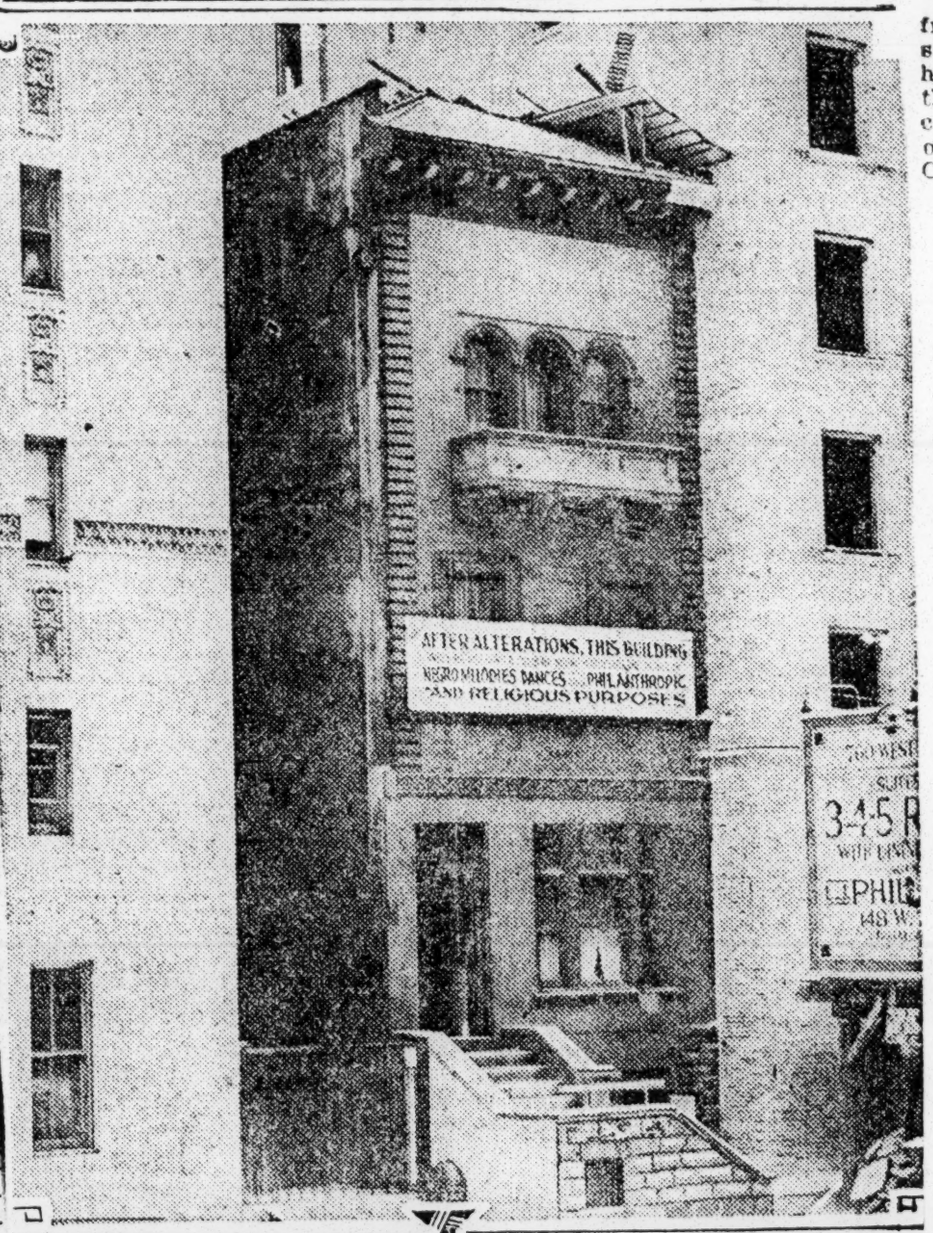
Purchasers Frightened Off

"The builders of the fifteen-story apartment house at Nos. 766 and 768 West End Avenue would have gladly bought my plot also had not the restrictive clause frightened them off. The building laws are such that erection of a tall building on my lot would be out of the question. So I have decided to turn the house into a club for Negro boys."

While some of the neighbors question Riley's sincerity, many read the sign with misgivings, evidenced by the numerous letters and telephone calls he has received asking if he would consider selling.

In April the city took title by condemnation proceedings to seven acres of the southern portion of Hart Island, adjoining the City Prison, which it has acquired from Riley. The amount to be paid him has not been determined. Some real estate experts appraised its value at $754,000.

SIGN ON WEST END AVENUE Building Heralds Negro Invasion of Fashionable Thoroughfare



NEGRO CLUB INVADES WEST END AVENUE
by World Staff Photographer Yesterday

Booker T. Washington's Will Clears Title to Brooklyn Lot

A copy of the will of Booker T. Washington was filed in Surrogate George A. Wingate's office in Brooklyn Saturday in order that Jacob Glaser, a white real estate dealer, of 400 Miller avenue, Brooklyn, might have a clear title to the lot on the east side of East 39th street north of Linden avenue, Brooklyn.

4-28-26

Glasser purchased the property from Hon. Emmett J. Scott, former secretary to Mr. Washington, who had received it from the widow of the educator. The title was not completely clear because no copy of the will was filed in the Kings County Surrogate's office.

DR. AGNES GRIFFIN-LEVY

ROXBURY, N. Y., Sept. 9 — The famous "Stone House" on John M. Royall's country estate will soon close for the season. This year many notables of the race from all walks of life have come here to view the vast holdings and enjoy the hospitality of one of Harlem's biggest real estate operators.

A year ago Mr. Royall set tongues in Harlem's financial circles wagging by purchasing a vast farm atop the Catskill Mountains. The estate was formerly owned by the late John Burroughs, the great naturalist, and adjoins the old homestead of the once famous Jay Gould. It was a coup of no small importance for a race man to come into possession of this estate.

This summer Mr. Royall and his family closed their townhouse in New York, 228 Edgecombe avenue, and came here to rest and entertain their many friends. The social register at the "Stone House" has recorded many visitors during the summer months. A few of those who have enjoyed the Royall hospitality are: Dr. and Mrs. Chauncey F. Levy of Brooklyn, Attorney and Mrs. J. Gordon Dingle and their son, Gordon, Jr.; Mrs. Fred R. Moore and daughter, Miss Marion; Miss Edith McAllister, and A. Pollock of New York City; Dr. and Mrs. W. Wallace McCary, Miss Frances Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer F. Smith of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary O. Moore of Carona, L. I.; Dr. and Mrs. George Bynoe of Brooklyn, Dr. and Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. L. W. Cooper of Chicago; Mrs. Lavinia J. Banks of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Josephine Daniels and Mrs. Mary Thompson of Jersey City, N. J.

Hunting, fishing, motoring, berry picking and games were enjoyed by the guests.

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North Carolina.

Concord, N. C. Tribune

OCT 16 1926

THE TAX WEALTH OF OUR NEGROES

According to their rating on the tax books the negroes of North Carolina are not worth much. We see in the University News Letter that under the rating the average Negro in the State is worth $133. It is also shown in the News Letter that the total value of all real and personal property listed by Negroes including the taxed value of Negro corporations, amounts to $107,145,388. Since few Negroes in the State hold interest in foreign corporations or public utilities the bulk of this wealth may be said to consist of real and personal property, along with the few corporations found here and there.

We gather the following facts from the News Letter on this subject:

"The total value of all real and personal property listed by the whites, including the taxed value of white-owned corporations, in 1924, was $2,293,253,687, and the average was $1,085 per white inhabitant. The whites own a great deal of additional wealth such as stock in foreign corporations, bank stocks, public utilities, etc., which is not included in the total listed above.

"Assuming that the data are comparable, the real and personal property holdings of Negroes, as they appear on the tax books, are approximately one hundred and thirty-three dollars per negro inhabitant, while the average for the whites is about ten hundred and eighty-five dollars. Judging by the tax books the average white person owns eight times as much as the average negro. Other forms of wealth, such as stock in foreign corporations, public utilities, the banks, etc., are owned almost entirely by whites, so as a matter of fact the average white person is more than eight times as wealthy as the average negro,—probably between ten and twelve times as wealthy.

"Negroes are about thirty per cent. of our population, but only four and a half per cent. of all real and personal property, including corporations, is listed by negroes. Wealth listed for taxation other than real and personal property amounts to $311,386,000. Assuming that this latter is white-owned, the whites of the state pay more than ninety-six per cent. of all taxes levied on property.

"Durham county ranks first in negro taxable wealth, with $335 per inhabitant. The average negro in Yancey county is worth only sixty-three dollars on the tax books. Five mountain counties do not report any wealth listed by negroes. Probably the small amount was included with the white property. It is interesting to note that three city counties, and three mountain counties with small negro ratios, comprise the first six counties in the accompanying table. The counties that come next are mainly tidewater and mid-state counties in which the negro ratios are not excessive. But after a few city and tidewater counties have been disposed of there seem to be very few further groups or trends that can be pointed out. Negro wealth appears to be listed in conformity with our general system of high values in one county and low values in another.

We would say that generally negroes appear to have accumulated more wealth in those counties in which they are a moderate ratio of the total population, and especially in such counties with large cities. Generally where negroes are an excessive ratio, as in the cotton and tobacco belt, and also where they are a very small ratio, they do not get ahead so rapidly. But there are several exceptions to any conclusions that may be drawn probably due to the lack of uniformity in listing property for taxation. Some mountain counties rank high, some very low. And so with every other geographic, economic, or race ratio group.

Charlotte N. C. News

OCT 13 1926

NEGRO TAXABLE WEALTH

The average negro in North Carolina is worth approximately one hundred and thirty-three dollars on the tax books. The total value of all real and personal property listed by negroes including the taxed value of negro corporations, amounts to $107,145,388. It is not likely that the negro owns much interest in foreign corporations or public utilities. The bulk of his wealth consists of real and personal property, along with the value of a few negro corporations found here and there.

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How the Counties Rank

Durham county ranks first in negro taxable wealth, with $335 per inhabitant. The average negro in Yancey county is worth only sixty-three dollars on the tax books. Five mountain counties do not report any wealth listed by negroes. Probably the small amount was included with the white property. It is interesting to note that three city counties, and three mountain counties with small negro ratios, comprise the first six counties in the accompanying table. The counties that come next are mainly tidewater and mid-state counties in which the negro ratios are not excessive. But after a few city and tidewater counties have been disposed of there seem to be very few further groups or trends that can be pointed out. Negro wealth appears to be listed in conformity with our general system of high values in one county and low values in another.

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The accompanying table does not include the three hundred dollar personal property exemption allowed every tax lister. It covers all wealth listed for taxation by negroes as reported in the 1925 report of the State Commissioner of Revenue.

Oxford, N. C., Public Ledger

OCT 15 1926

TAXABLE WEALTH OF NEGRO CITIZENS OF GRANVILLE COUNTY

Total Negro Wealth Is $1,637,110; Per Negro Inhabitant $129.

Negroes of Granville county have more wealth listed on the county tax books than the negroes of many other counties in North Carolina, according to figures presented by The News Letter, of the University of North Carolina.

Taxable wealth of Granville county negroes total $1,637,110, according to the figures presented.

The table, as presented by the News Letter, covers all real and personal property, and domestic negro corporations. The $300 personal property exemption allowed every tax lister is not included.

Durham county ranks first is taxable wealth per negro inhabitant, with $335. Durham has some large negro corporations. Three mountain counties follow Durham. Yancey ranks last with $63 of wealth listed for taxation per negro inhabitant. Wake ranks first in total negro taxable wealth, the amount being $5,125,390. Durham is second and Forsyth is third. Five mountain counties do not report any property listed by negroes. State total of negro taxable wealth $107,145,388, or $133.00 per negro inhabitant.

Property - 1926

North Carolina.

HENDERSON RACE PEOPLE LEFT LARGE ESTATE

Melissa Townes, It Develops, Was Worth Many Thousands.
(Preston News Service)

Henderson, N. C., April 15.—A large estate belonging to Melissa Townes, of this city, who died about a year ago, and amounting to $31,916.42, was brought to light in an action of the city council at its regular meeting last Monday night, in which steps were taken to list and collect taxes upon the unlisted property of the dead woman for the years 1921 to 1925, both inclusive. Tax officials of Vance county are also moving to levy upon the property, most of which never was upon the tax books. 4-15-26

It was estimated at the meeting last Monday night that the city would realize approximately $1,500 out of the collections, and the county will get more than that, if it presses its case.

The estate came to light in the filing of a statement with the clerk of the court by the administrator, in which was listed $25,666.46 on deposit in cash in the Mechanics and Farmers bank of Durham, a negro bank; $1,899.96 cash in the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Henderson; and houses and vacant lots in and near Henderson valued at $4,350.

Durham Negroes Wealthiest In State With a Per Capita Wealth Of $335; Data Shows

OCT 27 1926 - Durham, N. C., Herald

Survey By Carolina Extension Department Shows Durham Negroes to Have Next to Greatest Amount of Taxable Wealth and the Highest Amount of Taxable Wealth Per Negro.

Durham has for many years boasted of the best negro citizenship in the state and has held them up as examples in thrift, progress and business. Having the largest negro life insurance company in the world, occupying its own five-story building has been pointed to the outside world as an example of thrift and sound business acumen on the part of the leaders of that race here. Because of that business many negroes of education and possessing all the ear marks of good citizens have been brought to Durham through the insurance enterprise, it is claimed.

Figures recently compiled by the extension department of the University of North Carolina show that Durham also has the greatest amount of per capita wealth of any of the counties of the state and only one county has a greater amount of taxable wealth than has Durham, that county being Wake. With negro taxable wealth amounting to $4,402,593 in this county, the per capita wealth of each negro is $335, the figures show. The per inhabitant taxable wealth of negroes for the state amounts to approximately $133, with a total negro wealth of $107,145,000 for the entire state. Wake county negroes have a taxable wealth of $5,125,390 but the per capita wealth amounts to only $176.

Jackson county, with only $320,931 in negro taxable wealth, occupies second place in the percapita wealth of the negro population of that county.

Business by the negro in Durham continues to go forward. Recently the negro business league was organized here for the purpose of helping to establish more firmly in Durham the spirit of progress and it has a membership of several hundred people. The negroes have their own section, which is a model town within itself with its banks, stores, library, hospital, schools, churches, moving theatre and excellent homes. These have had their effect in building up a strong negro citizenship in the community, leaders say.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

Journal

OCT 14 1926

Wealth of the Negroes

In sixty years the Negroes of North Carolina have accumulated taxable wealth to the amount of $107,145,388, or $133 per Negro inhabitant. It is no doubt a pleasant surprise to the white friends of the Negroes in this State to know that since being freed from slavery they have gathered together more than a hundred million dollars worth of property. This is a splendid foundation upon which to build and creates a glowing promise of what the total will be sixty years hence.

The per capita wealth of Negroes, $133, does not sound very impressive. But it does mean that many Negro families are pretty well established, and that a good start toward property holdings has been made. The Negroes of the State are to be congratulated heartily on the progress they have made. In thirty-seven counties the average is above the State level of $133. This may indicate that the Negro has not as yet fully discovered the sections of the State in which he can get along best in respect to property accumulation.

Wake County leads in amount of property owned by Negroes, the total being $5,125,390 and the per capita $176. Durham leads in largest per capita wealth, this being $335 with the total property held being $4,402,593. In three other counties the per capita wealth is above $200. These counties are: Jackson, $320,931, per capita, $292; Buncombe, $2,700,640, per capita, $281; Alleghany, $89,994, per capita, $270. The fifth highest per capita is in Guilford County, $242 with a total property holding of $4,200,404. No Negroes list property for taxation in the following counties: Ashe, Graham, Macon, Madison, Polk—all mountain counties.

Forsyth County is third in amount of taxable property, the total being $4,145,634 and the per capita $159. Durham County is second in amount of property. Buncombe County with its large total property as well as large per capita property holdings is the best example of what the Negro can do in a mountain county. The figures for Buncombe seem to refute the general opinion that the Negro can do well only in the eastern part of the State. Forsyth's figures are indicative of the possibilities of the Piedmont section for the Negro.

[illegible] N. C., [illegible]

OCT 18 1926

THE TAX WEALTH OF OUR NEGROES.

According to their rating on the tax books the negroes of North Carolina are not worth much. We see in the University News Letter that under the rating the average Negro in the State is worth $133. It is also shown in the News Letter that the total value of all real and personal property listed by Negroes including the taxed value of Negro corporations, amounts to $107,145,388. Since few Negroes in the State hold interest in foreign corporations or public utilities the bulk of this wealth may be said to consist of real and personal property, along with the few corporations found here and there.

We gather the following facts from the News Letter on this subject:

"The total value of all real and personal property listed by the whites, including the taxed value of white-owned corporations, in 1924, was $2,293,253,687, and the average was $1,085 per white inhabitant. The whites own a great deal of additional wealth such as stock in foreign corporations, bank stocks, public utilities, etc., which is not included in the total listed above.

"Assuming that the data are comparable, the real and personal property holdings of Negroes, as they appear on the tax books, are approximately one hundred and thirty-three dollars per negro inhabitant, while the average for the whites is about ten hundred and eighty-five dollars. Judging by the tax books the average white person owns eight times as much as the average negro. Other forms of wealth, such as stock in foreign corporations, public utilities, the banks, etc., are owned almost entirely by whites, so as a matter of fact the average white person is more than eight times as wealthy as the average negro,—probably between ten and twelve times as wealthy.

"Negroes are about thirty per cent. of our

population, but only four and a half per cent. of all real and personal property, including corporations, is listed by negroes. Wealth listed for taxation other than real and personal property amounts to $311,386,000. Assuming that this latter is white-owned, the whites of the state pay more than ninety-six per cent. of all taxes levied on property.

"Durham county ranks first in negro taxable wealth, with $335 per inhabitant. The average negro in Yancey county is worth only sixty-three dollars on the tax books. Five mountain counties do not report any wealth listed by negroes. Probably the small amount was included with the white property. It is interesting to note that three city counties, and three mountain counties with small negro ratios, comprise the first six counties in the accompanying table. The counties that come next are mainly tidewater and mid-state counties in which the negro ratios are not excessive. But after a few city and tidewater counties have been disposed of there seem to be very few further groups or trends that can be pointed out. Negro wealth appears to be listed in conformity with our general system of high values in one county and low values in another.

We would say that generally negroes appear to have accumulated more wealth in those counties in which they are a moderate ratio of the total population, and especially in such counties with large cities. Generally where negroes are an excessive ratio, as in the cotton and tobacco belt, and also where they are a very small ratio, they do not get ahead so rapidly. But there are several exceptions to any conclusions that may be drawn, probably due to the lack of uniformity in listing property for taxation. Some mountain counties rank high, some very low. And so with every other geographic, economic, or race ratio group.

STAR

Shelby - N. C.

OCT 15 1926

Cleveland Colored Not Very Wealthy

According to the University News Letter the taxable wealth per negro inhabitant in Cleveland county is only $110. This is about $22 below the state average. The total taxable wealth of the colored population of Cleveland county is set at $667,353.

This county ranks 68th in the state and above Gaston, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Catawba and Burke.

Hickory, N. C.

OCT 27 1926

Press Comments

WEALTH OF THE NEGROES

(Winston-Salem Journal)

In sixty years the Negroes of North Carolina have accumulated taxable wealth to the amount of $107,145,388, or $133 per inhabitant. It is no doubt a pleasant surprise to the white friends of the Negroes in this state to know that since being freed from slavery they have gathered together more than a hundred million dollars worth of property. This is a splendid foundation upon which to build and create a glowing promise of what the total will be sixty years hence.

The per capita wealth of Negroes, $133, does not sound very impressive. But it does mean that many Negro families are pretty well established, and that a good start toward property holdings has been made. The Negroes of the state are to be congratulated heartily on the progress they have made. In thirty-seven counties the average is above the state level of $133. This may indicate that the Negro has not as yet fully discovered the sections of the state in which he can get along best in respect to property accumulation.

Wake county leads in amount of property owned by Negroes, the total being $5,125,390 and the per capita $176. Durham leads in largest per capita, $292; Buncombe, $2,700,640, the total property held being $4,402,593. In three other counties the per capita wealth is above $200. These counties are: Jackson, $320,931, per capita $292; Buncombe, $2,700,640, per capita $281; Alleghany $89,994, per capita $270. The fifth highest per capita is in Guilford county, $242 with a total property holding of $4,200,404. No Negroes list property for taxation in the following counties: Ashe, Graham, Macon, Madison, Polk—all mountain counties.

Forsyth county is third in amount of taxable property, the total being $4,145,634 and the per capital $159. Durham county is second in amount of property.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. OBS

OCT 14 1926

SLOW PROGRESS.

By way of The Winston-Salem Journal we learn that in 60 years the negroes of North Carolina have accumulated taxable wealth to the amount of $107,145,388, or $133 per negro inhabitant. It is no doubt a pleasant surprise to the white friends of the negroes in this State to know that since being freed from slavery they have gathered together more than a hundred million dollars worth of property. This is a splendid foundation upon which to build and creates a glowing promise of what the total will be sixty years hence.

The per capita wealth of negroes, $133, does not sound very impressive. But it does mean that many negro families are pretty well established, and that a good start toward property holdings has been made. The negroes of the State are to be congratulated heartily on the progress they have made, thinks The Journal. In thirty-seven counties the average is above the State level of $133. This may indicate that the negro has not as yet fully discovered the sections of the State in which he can get along best in respect to property accumulation.

Wake County leads in amount of property owned by negroes, the total being $5,125,390 and the per capita $176. Durham leads in largest per capita wealth, this being $335 with the total property held being $4,402,593. In three other counties the per capita wealth is above $200. These counties are: Jackson, $320,931, per capita, $292; Buncombe, $2,700,640, per capita, $281; Alleghany, $89,994, per capita, $270. The fifth highest per capita is in Guilford County, $242 with a total property holding of $4,200,404. No negroes list property for taxation in the following counties: Ashe, Graham, Macon, Madison, Polk—all mountain counties.

Here is irrefutable evidence, of course, that the negroes of the State are getting along, but it is not evidence of the fact that they are getting along in economic respects as rapidly as they should in a State of so many multiplied advantages.

In this county, for example, few negroes seem to be developing above the level of their forebears.

Out in the countryside, you will neither observe nor hear of the younger men of the race trying to establish themselves permanently as farmers. The fact is that they are doing as the young whites, getting out of the countryside at the first opportunity.

In the city, the industrial center, the same general observation is inescapable.

Here and there an exceptional negro may be found who has broken loose from his racial traditions and is out hustling to get his feet firmly planted upon economic ground, but it's mighty seldom such is happening.

And we are wondering if the blame for the lack of progress the race is making in this respect does not rest somewhat heavily upon the whites, who are indifferent to the black man as an independent economic factor in our midst.

lightwads, and in support thereof

Property—1926

Oklahoma.

New Oklahoma Oil Field Brings Wealth To Blacks

(By Geo. Perry)

SEMINOLE, OKLA., DEC., (PC NB.)—Another Oklahoma Indian tribe, the Seminoles, has set its foot on the trail followed by Osages from poverty to wealth through the recent discovery of a new oil field in the center of what was formerly the Seminole Nation and now is Seminole County, Oklahoma.

The last native heath of a people whose ancestors were powerful enough to challenge the military strength of the United States and the resourcefulness of Andrew Jackson was given to them in 1833 when they received in exchange for their Florida lands, an area between the North and South Canadian rivers and extending west to Little River, a part of the original Creek domain in Indian Territory.

When the Civil War closed, the Seminoles found that their part of the penalty for engaging in the disturbance was the cession of 2,169,080 acres of their landed estate, for which they received 15c an acre, a total of $325,362, and they were required to purchase 200,000 acres at the rate of 50c an acre, and that shrunken area became the last of the Seminole holdings.

90 Per Cent Are Mixed Breeds

Of a number estimated at less than 3,000 Seminoles, 1,842 now reside in the Seminole County and wealthy Osages who inter-married but very little, 90 per cent. of the Seminoles in Oklahoma are mixed breeds, red and black, known upon the government roles as Seminole Freedmen, being descendants from former slaves of the Seminoles and entitle as such to an allottment of 160 acres of land each.

Coody Johnson A Seminole

The most noted of the Seminole Freedmen lives in Wewoka, the former seat of the Seminole Government, J. Coody Johnson the wealthiest Black American in Oklahoma. For years a power in the tribal affairs of the Seminoles, Johnson was also official interpreter of the Greek-Seminole language in Judge Parker's court, when there was no God—no Sunday west of Fort Smith.

Rated As A Millionaire

From the settlement, a few years ago of a nine year litigation over the famous Barney Thlecco oil allottment in the Cushing field, Coody Johnson was one of the heaviest stockholders. Johnson is claimed to have cleaned up close to a million dollars. Martha Jackson, Creek full blood of Okfuskee County, received $308,000 for her interest in the lease.

Jones' Income $200 Per Day

In the recent old strike the discovery well was struck on a little farm owned by Mose Jones, a son of a former Seminole slave. Over night Jones' income jumped from nothing to $200 per day. In one 24-hour period last week 131,141 barrels flowed from the new Seminole pool; with the Independent Oil Gas Co.'s No. 3 well on the Jones allottment bringing in 1,500 barrels the first night.

NEW MILLIONAIRES

NEW OKLAHOMA OIL FIELD BRINGS WEALTH TO BLACK AMERICANS—SEMINOLE FREEDMEN BECOME WEALTHY AS NEW OIL FIELD DISCOVERED

(By George Perry)

Seminole, Okla., Dec. 18, 1926:—(Pacific Coast News Bureau)

Another Oklahoma Indian tribe, the Seminoles, has set its feet on the trail followed by the Osages from poverty to wealth thru the recent discovery of a new oil field in the center of what was formerly the Seminole Nation and now is Seminole County, Okla.

The last native heath of a people whose ancestors were powerful enough to challenge the military strength of the United States and the resourcefulness of Andrew Jackson was given to them in 1833.

Unlike the wealthy Osages who inter-married but very little, 90 per cent. of the Seminoles in Oklahoma are mixed breeds, red and black, known upon the goverment roles as Seminole Freedmen, descendants from the former slaves of the Semioles and entitled as such to an allotment of 160 acres of land each.

Coody Johnson

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A Millionaire

From the settlement a few years ago of a nine year litigation over the famous Barney Thlocco oil allottment in the Cushing field, the allotment was awarded to the Black Panther Oil Company of which Coody Johnson was one o fthe heaviest stockholders. Johnson is claimed to have cleaned up close to a million dollars.

Income $200 Per Day

In the recent oil strike the discovery well was struck on a little farm owned by Mose Jones, a son of a former Seminole slave. Over night Jones' income jumped from nothing to $200 per day. In one 24-hour period last week 131,141 barrels flowed from the new Seminole pool; with the Independent Oil & Gas Co.'s No. 3 well on the Jones allotment bringing in 1,5000 barrels the first night.

Property - 1926

Pennsylvania.

White Widow Gets $60,000 Estate

PHILADELPHIA. — Henry E. Burgess, barber, 1341 South street died recently and he left his white wife a $60,000 estate.

This fact became known last week when his son, Henri, a letter carrier, entered suit to secure a share in the property, claiming that his father married the white woman without the formality of a divorce from his first wife.

Property - 1926

Texas.

PICKENS ASKS FOR ALL KINDS OF EQUALITY

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., May 6.—(by A. N. P.)—Invading that dread Texas which the late Bert Williams so wisely shunned, William Pickens, field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, came here and in a meeting where enthusiasm bordered on frenzy, declared that Negroes wanted and demanded all kinds of equality, and explained that the only kind of equality which meant anything was the kind which included everything.

He was welcomed to the city by a group of 34 men who own a million dollars' worth of property and control millions more.

Interviewed by the Associated Negro Press, Mr. Pickens asserted: "I am surprised to learn that in this largest Texan city the Negro is one of the most important political factors, that there is one Negro here who is accused in other Texas cities of being the "colored mayor" of this town, so great is his influence. I have also been pleased to hear that nearly every Negro family in San Antonio owns its home. One man is worth $250,000 and lives on a four-acre block in the city in a house that rivals Mme. Walker's in beauty."

Property - 1926

Virginia.

HOLDINGS OF RACE HERE ARE FIVE MILLIONS

More Than That Of Race Group In Any Other City In State, And Double Some Of Sister Cities.

CAPITATION TAX TOTALS $30,000

The real and personal property holdings of the colored people of Norfolk exceeds that of any other city in Virginia, including Richmond, according to records in the state auditor of public accounts. These records show the total assessed value of real and personal property of Negroes in this city to be $5,373,620.

The Norfolk figures exceed those for the capital city by more than a million dollars, the sum for that city being $4,133,950.00. The holdings of the colored people here as assessed for taxation are more than those of Lynchburg, Roanoke, Suffolk and Danville combined, and equal to the combined assessed holdings of the Negroes of Newport News and Petersburg, and two and a half million more than that of Portsmouth, or nearly doubling it.

The colored population of Richmond is still a good deal larger than that of Norfolk which is indicated in the capitation tax assessment for the two cities. Richmond Negroes' capitation tax assessment totals $37,671.00, while that of Norfolk is $30,478.50

The aggregate real and personal holdings of the colored people of the nine Virginia cities amounts to $22,061,497.00. Their combined poll tax assessment is $111,910.00.

The following table shows the assessed valuations of these holdings by cities.

NORFOLK	**$5,373,620.00**
Portsmouth	2,947,835.00
Newport News	2,341,130.00
Richmond	4,133,950.00
Petersburg	2,392,950.00
Lynchburg	1,783,195.00
Roanoke	1,337,526.00
Suffolk	571,377.00
Danville	1,180,814.00